



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

October 14, 2004

Reply to
Attn of: **ETPA-085**

RE: FY 2005 Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) Grant Solicitation

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the availability of funding through the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) grant. Proposals should be **postmarked by Wednesday, December 1, 2004**, to be considered for funding. Please refer to the enclosed funding announcement package for specific information regarding the required elements for each proposal and the overall GAP grant process.

Some Significant Changes to the GAP Process

Our process this year differs from that used in the past. One significant change is the earlier deadline. The interest of Region 10 Tribes in the GAP program results in a very large volume of grant applications, the largest within Region 10. With this early deadline for proposals, we seek a speedier process for awarding grants. Second, this year we are asking initially for proposals only, which consist of a work plan and budget. In this way, we seek to streamline the process by avoiding having to ask applicants to resubmit application forms. We will ask for the remaining application forms to be submitted following successful completion of revisions regarding the work plan and budget.

Please review the enclosed solicitation notice carefully regarding these and other changes. If after reviewing the enclosed application package you have any questions about the GAP application process or grant requirements, please contact your Tribal Coordinator. For applicants in Alaska, general questions can be directed to the Alaska Tribal Office at 1-800-781-5083. For applicants in Idaho, Oregon, or Washington, please contact the Region 10 Tribal Office in Seattle at 1-800-424-4372.

In addition to the changes in the GAP solicitation process, we are planning to initiate a process for awarding additional GAP funds targeted for specific purposes. In the next few months, we will solicit proposals for grants from Tribes and tribal consortia that have the ability and interest to assist other Tribes and tribal consortia with grant management and capacity development. We also will be requesting proposals from Tribes and tribal consortia located within Washington state that are interested in hosting the 2006 EPA-Tribal Leaders Summit. (The Sitka Tribe was awarded the grant to host the 2005 Summit which is tentatively scheduled for April 2005.) Finally, we have limited funding for use by any organization interested in assisting Tribes in Alaska with the environmental and public health challenges they face. We will initiate an awards process for those funds as well. In an effort to assure that these grants

achieve the best results for Tribes (and are consistent with EPA Policy), they will be awarded competitively to the applicants who can provide the most cost-effective services. We will provide you with additional, specific information regarding these activities as we develop our plans.

General Information about GAP Grants

The GAP grant provides funding for federally-recognized Tribes and tribal consortia to develop capacity to manage and implement environmental programs. All federally-recognized Tribes and tribal consortia are eligible to receive a GAP grant, which are expected to be funded at a base amount of up to \$110,000. If this amount changes, an EPA Tribal Coordinator will contact you to request revisions. All those seeking funding for the **first-time** must request a funding amount of no less than \$75,000 for the first year. For Tribal consortia, copies of the resolutions from all Tribes who will benefit from your GAP grant are required to be submitted by the application deadline. Consortia must also be able to demonstrate that only those Tribes eligible to receive GAP grants will benefit from the grant.

As in prior years, it is EPA Region 10 policy that Tribal governments receive funding priority, followed by tribal consortia. Factors affecting the award amount will include the environmental need identified in the application and, for continuing grantees, past program performance, including the amount of unspent funds remaining in the project at the time of funding decision. In addition, all proposals must include a discussion of human health and environmental need, the applicant's management capability, as well as all required 40 CFR Part 35 elements, to be considered for funding. Please see Attachment B of this notice for more information regarding the required Part 35 elements.

GAP funds cannot be used to implement environmental programs, with one exception. If a grantee has developed the capacity to manage a solid or hazardous waste program, then GAP funds can be used to support the program. Please refer to the Indian General Assistance Program Guidelines for the Award and Management of General Assistance Agreements for Indian Tribes (GAP Guidance), March 2000, Section II, at <http://www.epa.gov/indian/pdfs/gap2000.pdf> for more information. Please note, however, that the program guidance has not been updated to reflect the change in policy to allow solid and hazardous waste implementation activities. Please contact your Tribal Coordinator for guidance in developing a reasonable cost proposal if you plan to use GAP funding for these activities.

For continuing grantees, we request that you consider submitting a multi-year application. Applicants can apply for subsequent years of funding at the base level of \$110,000. Current grantees should contact their EPA Tribal Coordinator to discuss specifics regarding multi-year proposals.

In addition to base funding, Tribes and tribal consortia may also submit additional requests for unmet needs. Innovative training efforts, and other unmet needs (i.e., QAPP training, grants management training, and capacity building special projects) may be considered. Please refer to page 5 of the enclosed **FY 2005 Grant Solicitation Notice for more information on unmet needs funding.**

In order for your application to be considered for funding, please submit a proposal, consisting of a work plan and budget, and one copy to the appropriate address below. All proposals should be postmarked by **Wednesday, December 1, 2004**.

If located in Alaska, please submit your proposal to the Alaska office. If in Idaho, Oregon, or Washington, please submit your proposal to the Region 10 office in Seattle. In order to expedite the review of your proposal, please send an electronic copy by email to your EPA Tribal Coordinator as well.

US EPA, Alaska Operations Office 222 W. Seventh Avenue, #19 Anchorage, AK 99513-7588 Attn: Santina Gay	US EPA, Region 10 1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-085 Seattle, WA 98101-1128 Attn: Katherine Holt
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EPA is committed to working in partnership with our Tribal partners to strengthen the Tribal environmental presence. As mentioned above, if you have any questions about the GAP grant process or grant requirements, please contact your Tribal Coordinator. In Alaska, general questions can be directed to the Alaska Tribal Office at 1-800-781-5083. In Idaho, Oregon, or Washington, please contact the Region 10 Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit in Seattle at 1-800-424-4372. We look forward to continuing our work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Michelle Pirzadeh, Director
Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs

Enclosure: FY 2005 Solicitation Notice